NEWS RELEASES

For Immediate Release: June 20, 2008

"THE FOUNDERS" OFFICIALLY UNVEILED AT 3RD AVENUE ROUNDABOUT

His Worship Mayor Donald Atchison and Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear today officially unveiled "The Founders", a spectacular twice life-size bronze statue commemorating the historic meeting of John Lake and Chief Whitecap. Located on the 3rd Avenue Roundabout north of the Traffic Bridge, the sculpture features Lake sitting on a boulder while Whitecap gestures toward the area he recommended for settlement.

"The Founders is a monumental art installation that will permanently recognize the founding moment of our vibrant and growing city, and will serve as an educational touchstone for our citizens and visitors," Mayor Atchison said. "It will celebrate our diversity, and the coming together of two great leaders and cultures."

"The art piece illustrates the diversity of our communities and the pledge of two leaders looking toward a future of cooperation and partnership," Chief Bear added. "Our two communities have co-existed as good neighbours for more than 125 years, and we continue to move forward to promote our rich histories together."

In 2006, Saskatoon was designated a Cultural Capital of Canada as part of the federal government's promotion of the arts and culture in Canadian municipalities. This sparked interest in creating a permanent public art installation to commemorate the meeting of John Lake and Chief Whitecap in 1882. A commissioning jury was established and an impressive proposal submitted by local sculptor Hans Holtkamp was unanimously selected.

In 2007, the site was dedicated by a First Nation's Elder and local Minister during the spectacular "Bridging 125" event celebrating the 125th anniversary of the famous meeting.

Funding for the statue was provided by the federal government through the Cultural Capitals Program, the City of Saskatoon, Whitecap Dakota First Nation, and from generous sponsors including SaskTel, The Partnership, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, and the Meewasin Valley Authority.

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For further information:
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BACKGROUNDER:

As part of the federal government's promotion of the arts and culture in Canadian municipalities, Saskatoon was designated a Cultural Capital of Canada in 2006. The program provided opportunities for the recognition of excellence and support for special activities that

celebrate the arts and culture and integrate them into overall community planning.

The designation rekindled interest in establishing a permanent public art installation commemorating the meeting of John Lake and Chief Whitecap on the 3rd Avenue roundabout site which had been constructed for a site specific art piece of this type.

On June 26th, 2006, funding for the Cultural Capital program was announced by then Minister Carol Skelton on behalf of Beverley J. Oda, then Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women. The announcement included the initial funding for the art piece.

Led by Frances Westlund, Arts and Grants Consultant for the City of Saskatoon, a commissioning jury was established and an expression of interest was issued to the arts community. A spectacular piece, submitted by local sculptor Hans Holtkamp, was unanimously selected. The initial piece was presented at 1½ times life size, but the jury felt that a sculpture at twice life size would better capture the importance of the meeting and better fit the scale of area given the 18 storey building soon to be built on the adjacent property. The selection was later endorsed by the City's Visual Arts Placement Jury.

On September 21st, 2007, the 3rd Avenue roundabout site was dedicated by a First Nation's Elder and local Minister during the "Bridging 125" event celebrating the 125th anniversary of the meeting of John Lake and Chief Whitecap. The celebration and sculpture received funding from the Cultural Capitals Program, City of Saskatoon, Whitecap Dakota First Nation, SaskTel, The Partnership , the Meewasin Valley Authority, and the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority.

Additional recognition is extended to The Riversdale BID, the Broadway BID, Saskatoon Public Schools, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Dakota Dunes Casino, and Saskatchewan Learning (Province of Saskatchewan).

The Selection Jury

Frances Westlund - Chair, Arts and Grants Consultant, City of Saskatoon
Paul Ferguson, Visual Arts Placement Jury
Professor Susan Shantz, Art and Art History, University of Saskatchewan
Warren Buffalo, Whitecap Dakota First Nation
Terry Scaddan, Executive Director, The Partnership
Lloyd Isaak, Project Manager, Meewasin Valley Authority
Chris Dekker, Special Projects Manager, City of Saskatoon
Jeanna South, Urban Design Coordinator, City of Saskatoon
Secretary: Kathy Mooney, Cultural Capital Project Coordinator

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